and demand situation at those points of time and has been observed not to lead to price rise. An Expert Committee appointed by the Government of India under the Chairmanship of Planning Commission Member Prof. Abhijit Sen to examine whether futures market was responsible for rise in the prices of essential commodities in its report submitted in April 2008 did not find futures market responsible for the increase of the prices of essential commodities.

In order to ensure food security in the country, to keep the prices under check and to maintain adequate supplies of food grains for Targeted Public Distribution System, other welfare scheme, etc., it has been decided by the Government that a strategic reserve consisting of 30 lakh tonnes of wheat and 20 lakh tonnes of rice will be maintained by Food Corporation of India.

(c) India has always been a chronic net importer of pulses due to the mismatch between domestic supply and demand for pulses. A reserve stock of pulses is not contemplated in view of its limited availability.

(d) In view of the answers (a) and (b) above, there is no proposal to ban futures trading in farm products group as of now.

Adulteration in toor and batri dal

3291. SHRI GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that 'toor dal' (Pigeon Peas) is being adulterated with lathyrus sativas (kesari gram or kesari dal) and batri dal by miscreants in the market;

(b) if so, Government's response thereto; and

(c) the details of the steps taken or proposed to be taken against such miscreants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) to (c) No such report has been received by the Government.

The Rule 44 (A) of Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 provide that no person in any State shall, with effect from such date as the State Government concerned may by notification in the Official Gazette specify in this behalf, sell or offer or expose for sale, or have in his possession for the purpose of the sale, under any description or for use as an ingredient in the preparation of any article of food intended for sale - Kesari gram (lathyrus salivus) and its products, Kesari dal and its products, Kesari dal flour and its products and mixture of Kesari dal and Bengal gram dal or any other dal.

The implementation of PFA Rules, 1955 is entrusted to Food (Health) Authorities of State/U.Ts. In case of any violation to the provisions of the PFA Act / Rules, penal action is taken against the offenders by the State Governments.

Policy to face hunger challenge

3292. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the report prepared by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), 25 million more children will go hungry by 2050 in the world;

(b) if so, whether South Asia will be affected the most due to hunger;

(c) if so, whether Government has formulated any policy to face such challenges; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) International Food Policy Research Institute(IFPRI)'s Report on 'Climate Change: Impact on Agriculture and Costs of Adaptation' released in October, 2009 mentions that due to effect of climate change 24-26 million more children under 5 years of age are likely to be malnourished in developing countries by 2050.

As per that report, out of all regions, the impact may be most visible in Sub-Saharan Africa followed by South Asia.

(c) and (d) Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to face the challenges of climate change. This includes action plans for climate change assessment and programmes for adaptation and mitigation such as:-

- National Network of Climate Change Assessment (INCCA) - (Ministry of Environment and Forests);
- Various missions under National Action plan on Climate Change;
- Strong disaster management and calamity mitigation policies for future natural calamities; and
- India's association as a member with various international bodies like Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change(IPCC) and Asia Pacific Partnership for Clean Development and Climate to hasten the process of education & outreach, research & Development and policy formulation.

Starvation deaths

3293. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state: